

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAMILT 00268 142141Z

64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OC-06

CCO-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 RSR-01 /128 W

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R 141908Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL HAMILTON

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 1344

UNCLASSIFIED HAMILTON 268

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, BD PINT ELAB

SUBJ: POSSIBILITY OF STRIKE AFFECTING BERMUDA'S AIR TRAVEL-  
UPCOMING GENERAL STRIKE?

REF: HAMILTON'S 267

1. NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUING BETWEEN BERMUDA AIR SERVICES (BAS) AND BERMUDA INDUSTRIAL UNION (BIU) FOR A NEW CONTRACT. AT PRESENT RATE OF PROGRESS UNLIKELY AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED BY DEADLINE, 2400 HOURS AUG. 14TH.
2. BAS NEGOTIATORS DO NOT ANTICIPATE STRIKE AT AIRPORT OVER NEXT WEEK OR TWO AS THE COMPANIES HAVE AGREED TO MAKE ANY AGREEMENT REACHED DURING NEXT TWO WEEKS RETROACTIVE TO TERMINATION DATE PRESENT CONTRACT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, GOB AND AIRLINE OFFICIALS CONCUR IN BAS ESTIMATE OF SITUATION.
3. CONCURRENT WITH BAS-BIU NEGOTIATION IS LARGER ISSUE

PAGE TWO RUEBBRA0695 UNCLAS

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PAGE 02 HAMILT 00268 142141Z

OF AGENCY SHOP BETWEEN GOB-BIU. GOB LEGISLATION PASSED

BY LOWER HOUSE PARLIAMENT AUGUST 10TH WHICH WAS PART OF LARGER BILL TITLED LABOUR RELATIONS ACT 1973X (NOT ACTED ON BY HOUSE) GAVE NONUNION MEMBER OF AGENCY SHOP FOLLOWING OPTION QUOTE ANY WORKER WHO OBJECTS ON CONSCIENTIOUS GROUNDS TO JOINING A UNION OR CONTRIBUTING TO IT MAY PAY AN EQUIVALENT CONTRIBUTION TO A REGISTERED CHARITY OF HIS CHOICE UNQUOTE. BIU IS VIOLENTLY PROTESTING LOWER HOUSE ACTION.

4. UPPER HOUSE, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL(LEGCO), IS EXPECTED TO HAVE AGENCY SHOP LEGISLATION PUT BEFORE IT AUGUST 15TH. OTTIWELL SIMMONS NEGOTIATOR FOR BIU WITH BAS IS MEMBER LEGCO. NIGHT OF AUGUST 13 UNION CALLED GENERAL STRIKE FOR AUGUST 17 IF LEGCO PASSES AGENCY SHOP BILL. UNION SAID IF LEGCO POSTPONES PASSAGE CONTROVERSIAL BILL IT WILL DEFER STRIKE TO NEXT SESSION OF HOUSES WHICH IS NOVEMBER.

5. UNION DID NOT GO TO GOB WITH STRIKE NOTICE BUT ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTIONS BY PRESS RELEASE AT 0030 HOURS AUGUST 14. THE NOTICE, CONTRARY TO LOCAL EXPECTATIONS,

PAGE THREE RUEBBRA0695 UNCLAS

DOES NOT MENTION STRIKE WILL BE FOR ONE DAY ONLY. THE NOTICE SIMPLY STATES GENERAL STRIKE WILL BE CALLED AUGUST 17. HOWEVER MOST CONCERNED OFFICIALS GOB AND GOVERNOR' S OFFICE EXPECT A ONE DAY STOPPAGE ONLY.

6. GOB MINISTER OF LABOR WOOLRIDGE STATED AUGUST 13 GOB WILL PUSH CONTROVERSIAL BILL THROUGH LEGCO STRIKE OR NO STRIKE.

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